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JOINT MEETING OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AND THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

These societies held their first joint meeting in this city on Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4, 1914. The meeting was most successful in attendance and in scientific and social interest. Nearly one-half of the members of the Association were present, which is remarkable considering that many of them live in the central and western parts of the Union and their annual meeting was held at Princeton, N. J., only three months earlier. The entire house of the Society was thrown open to the visiting members of the Association who were also our guests at the Park Avenue Hotel and at two mid-day luncheons. A large number of maps, especially arranged for the inspection of the visitors, included specimens of the topographic survey sheets issued by all the governments producing them; also notable recent maps mentioned in the *Geographical Record* (p. 365) in the notice of the latest exhibition the Society has arranged for the public.

Vice-President John Greenough welcomed the Association at the opening session on Friday morning with the following remarks:

"Gentlemen of the Association of American Geographers: It is a matter of great regret to our President, Mr. Archer Huntington, that absence from the city prevents him from receiving you here to-day, and it, therefore, devolves upon me as Chairman of the Council to bid you welcome on behalf the American Geographical Society to our modest home. We trust that this meeting—the first of the annual gatherings proposed under the treaty between our respective organizations—may prove to be the initial step in an enduring coöperation for the promotion of geographic knowledge and effort in this city and elsewhere. I am aware that in addressing you I speak to a body of gentlemen who have already achieved distinction in the field of science where our own members can claim at best only to be students and scholars; and I should, therefore, not attempt in any case to take part in your scientific discussions.

"But it has seemed to me that it would not be thought out of place if I state with frankness what advantages we hope to contribute and what to receive in the quasi alliance between us. We may claim, I think, that our Society's aims are absolutely altruistic and free from any possible influence of personal exploitation in the administration of the valuable plant and resources which the generosity of many benefactors has entrusted to us. Our desire is to make of these implements the best use possible in the cause of education in the science to which all of us present are devoted. We possess here a building fitted for the use of literary workers, with a reference library of nearly 50,000 books and 30,000 maps, whilst the labors of an efficient and zealous staff are directed to increase and improve these facilities and to keep in touch with kindred societies throughout the world. You gentlemen of the Association possess experience and attainments which we feel may be of great use to us in realizing the aspiration to which I have alluded and I avail myself of this occasion to express the earnest wish of our Society that you will not regard the limitations of the agreement between us as defining completely our relations,

but that you will favor us with suggestions if at any time we can be of service to you in any manner whatever, or if action or endeavor on our part in any direction may be of advantage to the cause of geographic science.

"Some suggestion in this direction has already presented itself in an informal consideration of the possible value of a concerted inquiry into the methods of geographic instruction in the schools, and in time to come we should like to hope that similar efforts for the general advantage might crystallize and take shape through our mutual relations. In these very brief and crude remarks you will readily gather that I am endeavoring to outline the spirit and not the form which we invoke for our future. We have had already abundant reason for assurance that we have not misinterpreted a similar cordial feeling on your part, and we have already taken advantage of it to seek guidance not long since in matters that concerned us, receiving valuable advice which this is a suitable place to acknowledge.

"And now in conclusion I may be permitted to add a word regarding our own field of effort and accomplishment. Working in the great metropolis of commerce and finance we are bound to be confronted with the fact of many material considerations which tend to engross the attention of local residents to the exclusion of other considerations. But, notwithstanding this condition, there is to be seen on every side evidence that a spirit of idealism does exist in this community, which finds expression in widespread support of every form of endeavor for human uplift and ethical or intellectual development. In our own organization for instance we number some 1,150 Fellows, who loyally second the plans of their Council to afford a suitable nucleus around which may gather any and all affiliated interests or material which present themselves in this city. Our scheme of influence includes facilities for study, lectures, publication and correspondence. In this unambitious, but, as we think, useful rôle we have continued for sixty years, and we are encouraged by evidences of appreciation in the necessarily restricted circle devoted to our theme. Among the most gratifying incidents of our recent experience, we are glad to record the agreement with your learned and active organization, which opens, as we hope, a path of extended coöperation accompanied by increasing usefulness and mutual respect.

"Welcome gentlemen to our dwelling and to our city. We do not own the latter, but we venture the invitation, for in spite of all its failings, this is conceded to be a hospitable and open town!"

Professor Charles R. Dryer, Vice-President of the Association of American Geographers, responded as follows:

"*Mr. President:* In behalf of the Association of American Geographers, I wish to return hearty thanks for the generous welcome which you have just given us. We would all like to express directly and personally our appreciation of your hospitality and our sense of the good fortune which you are bringing us to-day. This seems to me something like a week-end house party, to which are thrown open all the resources of a great mansion and estate, provided especially for us by the solicitous care of our hosts. I have now enjoyed the hospitality of the American Geographical Society for a longer period than most of my colleagues. I know whereof I speak when I say that it means boundless privilege and unremitting attention.

"I am sure that we all feel a sense of pride and satisfaction in that we

meet to-day in this home of geography. Here our science is not the vassal of geology, history or commerce, but an independent, sovereign state. Here we geographers are not visiting our cousins or our aunts. We are not poor relations from the country or rich relations from the city, but we are sons fore-gathering from afar in the house of the great mother. We feel as though we were youngsters receiving the paternal blessing and presently to be sent out with a Godspeed and an assurance of substantial backing in our efforts to live up to the measure of our opportunities. I am sure it is a serious question with every one of us what we are going to do to justify the confidence placed in us.

"Geography has need of men and women who will devote all their energies to her scientific and academic advancement, and will have little time to make money. She has need also of men and women, who, occupied with other and large affairs, are yet willing to give her a generous share of their ability and means. We have here today a company composed of both sorts working in harmonious coöperation. No event could be more auspicious for the future of our science. I believe that this meeting marks the beginning of a new era of great undertakings and accomplishments in American geography. That it is a reality and not a dream, we gladly yield to the American Geographical Society full credit, and to you, Sir, again with one accord, thanks."

The audiences at the three sessions in our lecture hall on Friday morning, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning included a considerable number of professors and students from Columbia and New York Universities and Barnard College. The following papers were read at these sessions, all illustrated:

W. H. HOBBS: Land Sculpturing in Arid Lands with Observations from Northeastern Africa.

T. WAYLAND VAUGHAN: The Platforms of Barrier Coral Reefs.

D. W. JOHNSON: Botanical Phenomena and the Problem of Coastal Subsidence.

E. W. SHAW: Characteristics of the Mississippi Delta in the Light of Comparative Studies of Some Old-World Deltas.

OLIVER L. FASSIG: The Period of Safe Plant Growth in Maryland and Delaware.

FREDERICK J. TURNER: Geographic Influences in American Political History.

J. RUSSELL SMITH: The Tree as a Factor in Man's Adjustment to Hilly and Rocky Land.

W. W. ATWOOD: Over the San Juan Mountains to the Ancient Cliff Dwellings of the Mesa Verde.

COLLIER COBB: The Forest of Sunburst: A Study in Anthropeogeography.

The audience at the lecture in the Engineering Societies' Hall on Friday evening by Dr. L. A. Bauer, Director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution, Washington, included many Fellows of the Society. Dr. Bauer spoke on "The General Magnetic Survey of the Earth," including an account of the work of the non-magnetic yacht *Carnegie* and of the various land expeditions dispatched to many parts of the world. Abstracts of the papers will be published in the *Bulletin* for June and one or more of the papers may appear in these pages later.